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Addressing the homeless

Drop-In director calls on local politicians to champion 'inclusivity' in housing PAGE 8

Khadr unfairly classified?

Omar Khadr poses minimal threat, should be classified as such: Ombudsman PAGE 10

INFUSED WITH BOLD MEDITERRANEAN FLAVOURS

A FISH DISH WITHOUT THE FANCY PREPARATION PAGE 27

PINK SHIRT DAY PLEDGES

Zoe Shaver, 14, adds her anti-bullying pledge to those of other young Calgarians during a Pink Shirt Day event at artBOX on 17 St. SE Wednesday afternoon. Zoe's pledge was to put a stop to mean rumours about others when she hears them. Kids across the city took part in similar activities during the annual campaign against bullying, which takes place on the last Wednesday in February.

ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Grad policy not set in stone, principal says

Lord Beaverbrook backlash. Calgary school sees swell of opposition to ceremony restrictions

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Students with failing grades will have their say before being kept off the graduation-day stage, says the principal of a Calgary high school steering a contentious new policy.

More than 1,400 people have signed an online petition urging Lord Beaverbrook principal Jim Simpson to remove a clause from a school document that states students earning a failing grade in any course during their Grade 12 year could be barred from partaking in the annual graduation ceremony and celebratory banquet.

Students have gone public with fears that while they may earn their diploma, failing a course not required to do so could leave them out of the milestone-day festivities.

Simpson, however, told Metro during a sitdown interview Wednesday that while the policy was drafted with the help of Calgary Board of Education administrators last year, he was still open to discussing potential changes.

Simpson said his primary intention was to keep students committed to their classes all the way up to donning a cap and gown and said some students, parents and faculty are supportive of the requirements.

Beaverbrook has reported issues surrounding declining classroom attendance and Simpson said some of that may very well be attributed to those students who've already achieved the provincial course requirements and 100 credits necessary to receive a diploma.

"We want to see all of our students be successful … one of the things I know is when students achieve a passing grade they're happier than if they didn't," he said. "Success breeds some success sometimes. So, that's something that, as we were drafting this, we tried to take into consideration."

But some Beaverbrook seniors continued to question whether the policy was really reflective of their achievements.

Savian Sills has just learned he failed Chemistry 30 in the fall — his final mark was 45 per cent — but said he's maintained a 75 per cent average in his other courses and is still more than likely to receive a diploma later this year. The province only requires students to complete a 20-level science course to be eligible for a diploma.

Sills was also quick to note much of his attention was diverted to extracurriculars, like starring in a lead role in a school drama production, singing in Beaverbrook's choir and helping its improv team earn a gold medal at a provincial competition.

"All of those things are a lot more important to me than chemistry," he said. "I feel like I'm representing the school in a positive way and because I made this one mistake I'm being punished for it."

Simpson said 46 of his Grade 12 students entered their diploma exams with a mark below 50 per cent, but said the school was still awaiting the results of those tests, which account for half of their final grade. He also pledged to sit down with each and every student with a failing mark to discuss "individual circumstances." The school is also looking into the potential of hosting an online forum to discuss the policy with the entire student body, he said.

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Airdrie survey.
Email addresses posted by mistake

City of Airdrie officials are apologizing for a gaffe that saw them post more than 300 email addresses of residents responding to a survey online.

The error was first made Monday and officials quickly realized and removed the personal information Tuesday, according to city spokesperson Lynda Phelan.

The questionnaire had been designed to gauge support for an organics recycling program in the city north of Calgary. One of the questions read "May we contact you by email?"

"We created two documents out of (the survey results)," Phelan said. "We created one without the addresses with the intent of publishing it because we believe in transparency.… It was an inadvertent error that we published the copy with the email addresses on it."

Airdrie resident Steven Dumais was among those whose email was posted. He said the error was more annoying than concerning. "You get crappy emails all the time as it is," he said. "Spam and crap — people pick up on that pretty quick."

Phelan said "checks and balances" are being introduced to prevent a similar mistake going forward. "Of course, we had a couple of folks who were a little bit … I don't know if they were upset, but they certainly wrote to us in capital letters, let's put it that way," she said.

Airdrie launched an organics pilot project last year and is moving to roll out the program in April. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Automated police cameras may soon be snapping photos like this of motorists who speed through crosswalks. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

I spy with my little lens something fast

Speed cameras.
Police looking to boost pedestrian safety

BRYAN WEISMILLER
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Calgary's top cops have told traffic authorities to explore putting speed cameras closer to where more people walk and cycle.

Pedestrian safety was a hot topic during a police commission meeting this week with three people being killed crossing Calgary streets in 2014. During that meeting, deputy police chief Trevor Daroux revealed there's a plan to shift the focus of automated policing efforts.

On Wednesday, police spokesperson Kevin Brookwell told Metro that high-level talk revolves around focusing on "non-traditional" areas where there are more pedestrians, such as residential areas or bustling inner-city spots such as 17 Avenue SW.

Brookwell brushed off the suggestion public discourse over pedestrian safety was driving massive changes to the speed-on-green and red-light camera enforcement, although he acknowledged all serious crashes concern police.

"It's part of an overall strategy," he said. "Pedestrian safety is one thing, but we have other problem intersections and locations in the city."

It's unclear whether the existing cameras could be moved or whether new ones would be added, but Brookwell stressed it's still very early days.

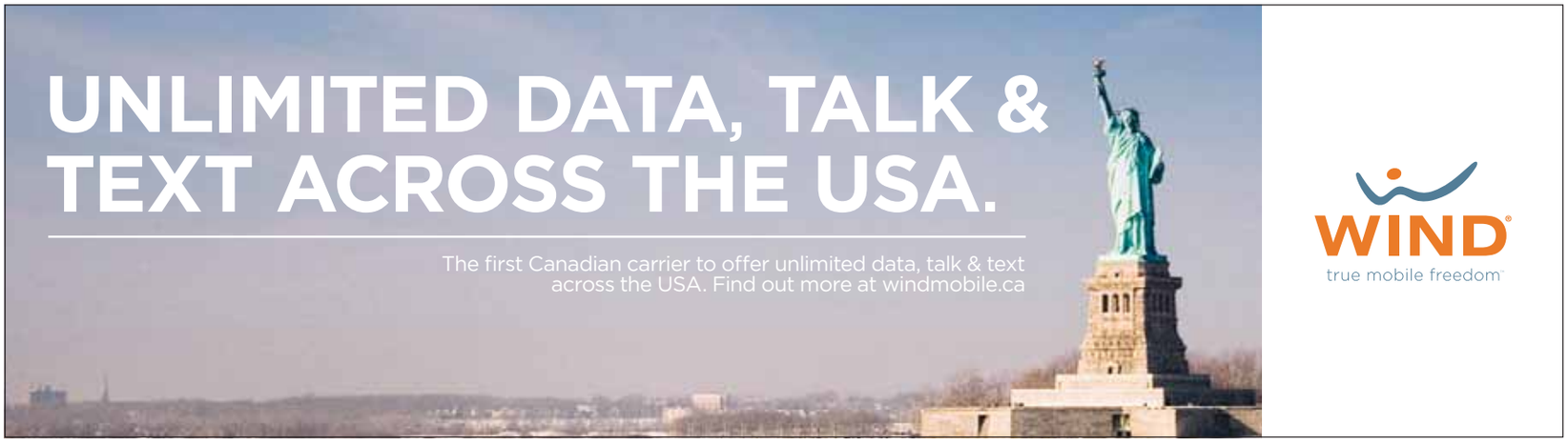
Bike Calgary president Kimberley Nelson has called for a traffic study to suss out where pedestrians are being hit.

While Nelson acknowledged more education is clearly needed to protect all road users, she agreed drivers need to be held more accountable all over the city — and suggested speed cameras help when they get people's attention.

"I like the idea of it," she said. "I don't know it's going to help unless it's something that's widely publicized."

At a glance

- Police currently use 47 "intersection safety cameras" to detect high speeds or when someone runs a red light.
- Based on police data, a Calgary engineer found 17 Avenue and 4 Street SW was one of the city's highest-collision intersections. A total of 45 pedestrians were hit from 1996 to 2012.
- City planners are working on a "pedestrian strategy" throughout the next year and beyond. It aims at having zero pedestrian fatalities in a decade.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Province wants to accelerate through traffic-court backlog

'Access to justice.'
Solicitor general plans to kick off public consultation this year

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Could traffic tickets soon be contested somewhere other than the Calgary Courts Centre? METRO FILE

Discounts for early payments of traffic tickets and moving the entire court dealing with roadway fines out of Calgary's downtown core could go miles in reducing a perceived backlog in the justice system, says Alberta's top cop.

Solicitor general Jonathan Denis told Metro he hopes to green-light a consultation with the public this year on ways to streamline dealings with regards to 1.9 million traffic tickets issued annually in Alberta.

"By comparison, there's only 300,000 Criminal Code violations (annually)," he said. "Downtown, there's also clogged lineups. I don't think it's a really great image of access to justice when you have to go through airport-style security, pay $20, $30 or $40 to park downtown, and then stand in line."

Denis said he's also consulting with officials in B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba about best practices, but he's reluctant to shift toward a system that allows traffic tickets to be fought online or over the phone. Such methods have been tested elsewhere.

Calgary police actually issued 18 per cent fewer tickets to lead-footed drivers in 2013 compared to 2012, but historical numbers suggest fine numbers remain above those in many other Canadian cities with larger populations.

Denis said he's also exploring scrapping a $9 administrative fee for paying a traffic ticket online, deeming it a "perverse incentive."

But Calgary defence lawyer Balfour Der was quick to question whether the traffic-court system needs changing at all. He said he typically has far better luck booking traffic-related trials compared to those dealing with Criminal Code matters.

He also said relocating the city's traffic court to a location outside the core would pose numerous logistical challenges for representatives like him, who tend to bounce from floor to floor dealing with a variety of matters inside the downtown courthouse.

"Calgary had this problem prior to the new courthouse," he said. "The idea was it made sense to amalgamate them all into one building... It's almost like putting up a straw man just to knock him down."

Fiscal update

Tories report day-to-day surplus

Alberta is on track to record a $1.4-billion surplus on day-to-day spending this year, but it will be $8.5 billion in the hole on the capital side due to borrowing for new schools and roads.

Finance Minister Doug Horner had originally forecast a $451-million deficit on day-to-day operational spending, but he said Wednesday that higher-than-expected oil prices, along with a low Canadian dollar, have changed the economic outlook.

"We're turning the corner," Horner told a legislature news conference as he delivered his third-quarter budget update for 2013-14.

"But we know that we must still be careful about what lies ahead...We all know how much our revenues can fluctuate in a short period of time."

Horner said given the volatility in oil and gas prices, the province will continue to hold the line on spending when he brings down the 2014-15 budget on March 6.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

City mulls swinging budget axe at golf discounts

McCall Lake Golf Course's potential closure has teed up more discussion on green-fee restructuring at city-owned links. METRO FILE

As debate rages on over closing McCall Lake Golf Course, city officials are also talking about slicing discounts for duffers during consultations this week.

With green fees on par with private courses in Calgary, the city's golf operations manager has suggested taking a hack at subsidies to ease the system's cash crunch.

"It's not really sustainable for us to carry on with that," Kyle Ripley said Wednesday.

Golfers are currently offered discounts through a 100-game pass and 10-round punch card.

"Both of those items we're looking at modifications to," Ripley said, adding it's too early to provide specifics.

Although he said the savings would be in the "hundreds of thousands of dollars," that's nowhere near what's needed to fill a $35-million budget hole over the next decade.

Last month, the city announced it was taking a mulligan on plans to sell the McCall Lake course to prop up its cash-strapped network.

Ward 5 Coun. Ray Jones has a couple other ideas on how to save McCall Lake, but he's waiting to see how the consultations play out.

Jones has vocally fought to keep the 27-hole course open and said he'll attend part of Thursday's open house at the Genesis Centre of Community Wellness. The meeting starts at 5:30 p.m.

"I hope the city hears loud and clear that the people want to keep it open," he said Wednesday.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

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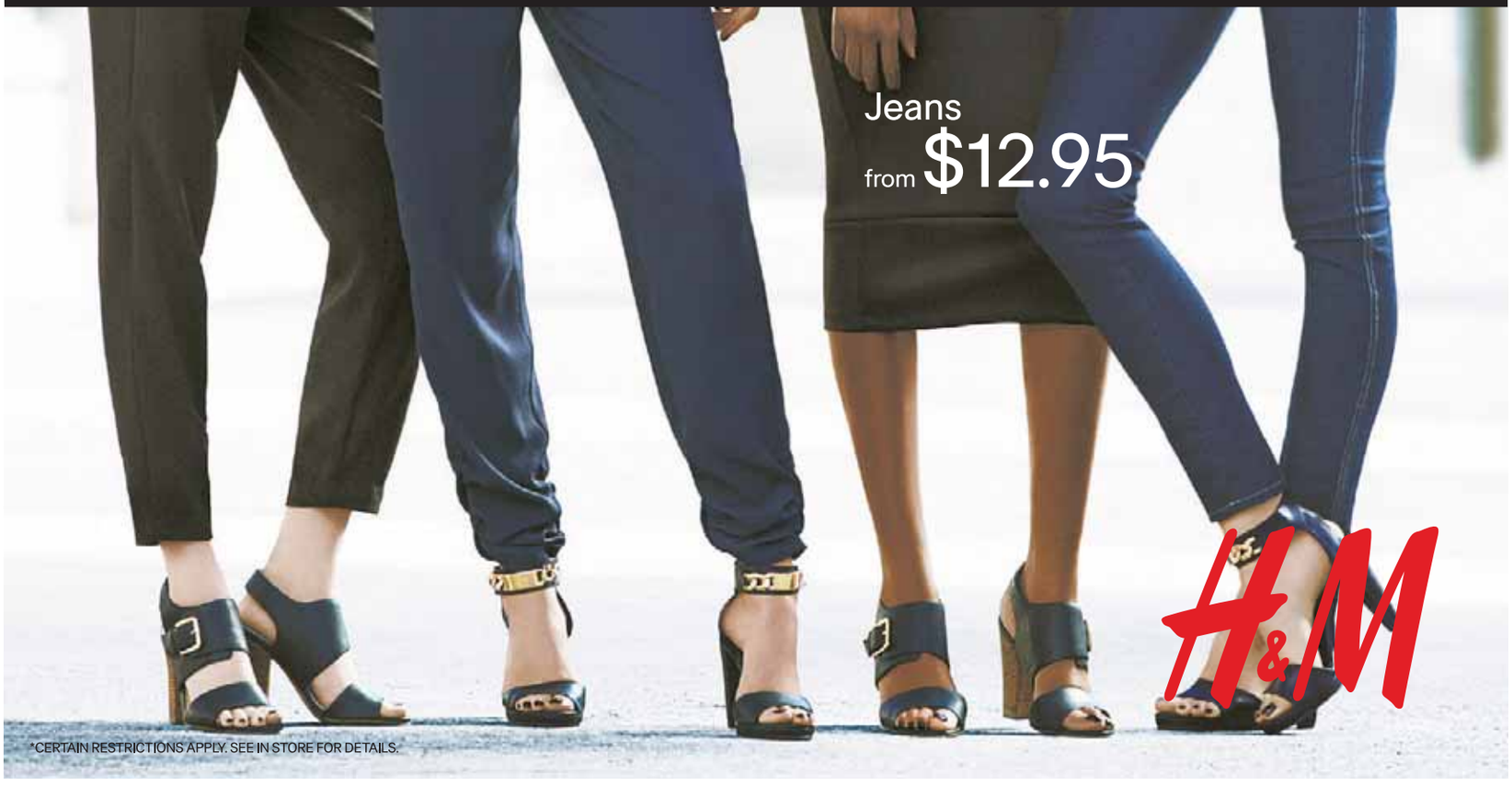

*CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY. SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS.

McKenzie Towne resident Doug Hayden is still waiting for his train to pull into the southeast suburbs. Hayden is now launching a grassroots group to bring together groups interested in expanding mass transit across Calgary.
BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Transit advocate wants 'one voice' to fast-track new Green Line route

LRTontheGreen.
McKenzie Towne resident co-hosting inaugural meeting of grassroots group

BRYAN WEISMILLER
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The Green Line

- The first meeting of the grassroots group — dubbed LRTontheGreen — is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 4 at the Thorncliffe Greenview Community Association.
- City council has allotted $520 million of provincial tax room for a bus-only transitway that would later be able to be converted into a CTrain.
- Plopping a full LRT on that Green Line route would cost $5 billion, according to current cost projections.

For years, southeast suburbanite Doug Hayden has banged the drum for LRT service in his transit-starved quadrant of the city.

But Hayden's calls for a new rail line have been mixed in the clatter of other special interest groups across the city: other transit advocates, community leaders and business groups.

With his dream rolling ever closer to reality, the McKenzie Towne resident is now looking to create a more unified voice to speed up mass transit projects.

"We want to bring the community associations and stakeholders together to speed up the line," Hayden said.

"The need is going to be there in 10 years, not 20 or 30."

In order to do that, Hayden and pal Jeff Binks are hosting the inaugural meeting of the LRTontheGreen group next week.

Admittedly, he doesn't know how many people will turn out to the launch. But Hayden has his eyes on the ideal outcome.

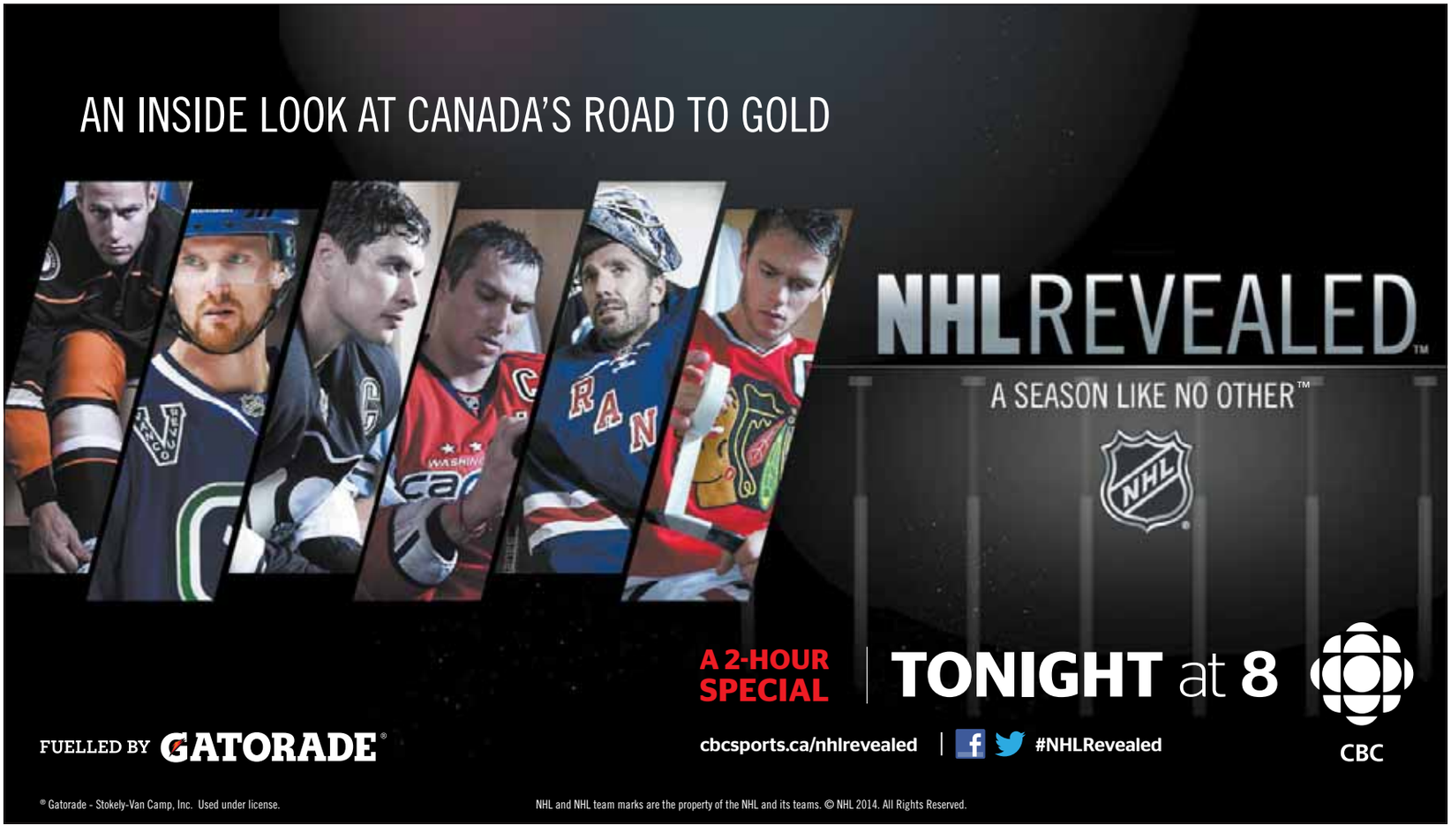
"We'd like to get everyone singing off the same song sheet and give one voice to an issue covering many areas," he said.

The proposed transit route — known as the Green Line — would run from Harvest Hills to the South Health Campus. Exact timelines to complete the 40-kilometre line remain unclear, with many details left to hash out.

Kim Jones with TransitCamp YYC expected some of the group's members to check out next week's meeting. Jones suggested it was a chance to pool information and share resources.

And speaking as an advocate for better transit service citywide, she was also pleased by the efforts to harmonize lobby efforts.

"Being interested in better transit throughout Calgary, we were glad to see that they are a Green Line group, not just (the) southeast," Jones said.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SAIT. Donor helps fund full-ride scholarships

Nine students who may otherwise have not been able to afford post-secondary will receive full-ride scholarships at SAIT starting next year.

Philanthropist David Bissett announced Wednesday he is donating $5 million to the Calgary polytechnic to fund a bursary and scholarship program in his name. Bissett's offering was the largest ever offered to a Canadian polytechnic or college.

"There's no question about it, our society needs the kind of skills that SAIT provides," Bissett told reporters.

Students will have to maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 to continue receiving funding through the program each year.

Tegan Cochrane, head of the SAIT students' association, said a lot of students face struggles with accumulating the funds for post-secondary.

"We had an emergency student loan program that opened up (in December).... We had 45 applicants in the first week, which is just incredible," she said. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Help for scholars

$7.5K

Students involved in the Bissett Scholar Program will receive $7,500 in funding annually.

Bankview

2nd suspect sought in 2012 murder

One day after charging a man with second-degree murder, Calgary police are hunting a second suspect in the 2012 beating death of a Sudanese refugee.

On Wednesday, police issued a warrant for 21-year-old Anthony Ambrose Brothers of Calgary. Brothers is wanted for one count of second-degree murder in connection with the January 2012 slaying of Gatleak Thor Metkurjock. METRO

Drop-In head urges politicians to champion 'inclusivity' in housing

Homeless count.
A total of 3,533 'rough sleepers' were counted on Jan. 15, up from 3,190 in January 2012

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Creating more affordable housing remains the key to addressing persistent levels of homelessness in Calgary, according to the head of the city's largest shelter, but persistent NIMBYism makes that a challenge.

"We're never going to move forward with creating an adequate supply of affordable housing if we have every community against what we're doing," said Debbie Newman, executive director of the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre.

Her comments came in the wake of the Calgary Homeless Foundation's (CHF) latest homeless count, which was up from the last count, conducted two years earlier.

Newman said local politicians need to do more to champion affordable housing efforts, as proposed projects are routinely met with stiff opposition from nearby residents and community associations.

"The city talks about community engagement, it talks about inclusivity," she said.

Andrea Ranson, CHF vice-president of communications, said Calgary needs "scale up" efforts to provide affordable and supportive housing options for the two per cent of chronic shelter users, who typically have a host of complex issues keeping them homeless.

"Right now, we have a certain amount of housing-first programs," she said. "We need to add more, and we need to focus on that two per cent who are stuck."

The Drop-In is Calgary's largest homeless shelter, providing about 900 of the city's 1,900 spaces. METRO FILE

Getting community onside

"Why is it we have so many people who cannot embrace the marginalized? We need to be able to get community onside. And it's a tough thing to do. You need to constantly have dialogue with people and you need to alleviate the fears that they have. It's always the fear of the unknown."

Debbie Newman, executive director of the Calgary Drop-In and Rehab Centre

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A screenshot from Nadine White and her husband Brad Clayton's GoFundMe page, where they are hoping to raise money for IVF treatment. CONTRIBUTED

Alta. woman looks to get pregnant ... with your help

CrowdFunding.
Alternative funding sought by many: Group

LEAH GERMAIN
leah.germain@metronews.ca

Faced with the expense of in-vitro fertilization treatment, one Alberta woman is turning to an online fundraising campaign to raise the money she needs to get pregnant.

Originally from Ontario, but now living in Innisfail, Nadine White has struggled to conceive because of a polycystic ovary syndrome.

After three bouts of intrauterine insemination (IUI), White and her husband opted for IVF, but were faced with the procedure's cost, along with the expense of travelling to Edmonton for treatment.

Rather than losing hope, White set up an account on GoFundMe called "Donate to Create Baby White."

Since launching the donation platform in June, the pair has received more than $2,900.

"It's just a way to get your message out there and get help," White said. "It's reaching out to people without technically going to each person."

Terri Abraham, president for Generations of Hope Fertility Assistance Fund, an organization which helps fund IVF treatments in Calgary for families who can't afford the expense, said White's situation isn't unusual.

"We've heard of people doing bottle drives, bake sales, remortgaging their homes," she said. "It's really about creating families safely, healthy and supporting the creation of a family."

Along with helping to fund IVF treatment, Generations of Hope is petitioning to get the procedure covered by Alberta Health.

"Why fertility is excluded is beyond me," Abraham said, adding recent research shows by providing public funding for fertility treatment, the province would save money on multiple births, which can be taxing on resources.

If fertility treatment was publicly funded, regulations could be applied — similar to Quebec — where only single embryo transfers are funded.

At a glance

- One fresh batch of IVF treatment costs between $10,000 to $15,000.
- While White said GoFundMe has been a positive experience, the website takes five per cent of every donation.
- White has sent homemade thank-you cards to each of her donors.

Stolen truck

Three charged in abduction of baby

RCMP in northern Alberta have charged three people in the abduction of a baby left inside an idling truck.

Police issued an Amber Alert for the child when the pickup was stolen Tuesday from outside a home in Grande Prairie. The seven-month-old girl named Addison was discovered a few hours later in her car seat on the porch of a rural home south of the city.

Police say a person in the house found the infant, who appeared to be unharmed.

A man and woman from Grande Prairie and a 14-year-old from Edmonton also face charges of child abandonment and theft of a motor vehicle. The youth is also charged with failing to comply with a probation order. Their names have not been released. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Texas Hold'Em

Flames' poker tourney raises more than $400K

The Calgary Flames and other city celebrities went all-in at their annual Texas Hold'Em poker tournament Tuesday, raking in a sizeable sum for the Flames Foundation for Life.

Flames players, coaches, alumni and other Calgary pro athletes got together along with 400 others Tuesday at Cowboys Casino and raised $420,00 for the charity.

Navrozk Khimji won the top prize, a $10,000 poker championship ring from Jewel's by Maxime's and two tickets anywhere WestJet flies, along with other prizes.

The total raised through the poker event over the past nine years is over $3 million. METRO

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Bieber exchanges swagger for stagger in latest video

In this Jan. 23 video frame grab released by the Miami Beach Police Department, singer Justin Bieber is shown walking unsteadily during a sobriety test at a police station in Miami Beach, Fla. The Miami-Dade county prosecutors released about 10 hours of video Wednesday. MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPT./THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Omar Khadr a minimal threat, says ombudsman

Classification. Prison authorities urged to take into account evidence that Canadian former Guantanamo detainee has no more terrorist ties

Canadian correctional authorities have unfairly classified former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr even though they lowered his risk rating from maximum to medium security, the federal prisons ombudsman complains.

In a letter obtained by The Canadian Press, the Office of the Correctional Investigator urges prison authorities to take into account evidence that Khadr poses minimal threat and should be classified as such.

"(Correctional Service of Canada) officials also note that there is no evidence Mr. Khadr has maintained an association with any terrorist organization," the letter to CSC's senior deputy commissioner states.

The letter this month by Ivan Zinger, executive director of the independent Office of the Correctional Investigator, is the office's third such complaint since Khadr returned to Canada in 2012 to serve out the rest of an eight-year sentence for war crimes.

Corrections recently reclassified Khadr, 27, and transferred him from the maximum-security Edmonton Institution to the medium-security Bowden Institution in Innisfail, Alta.

But the ombudsman argues that doesn't go far enough, given that Khadr pleaded guilty in October 2010 to crimes he committed in Afghanistan as a 15-year-old. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Controversial anti-gay bill vetoed

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has vetoed a bill that set off a national debate over gay rights, religion and discrimination.

She announced the veto Wednesday after holding private meetings with opponents and proponents.

The bill backed by Republicans in the state Legislature was designed to give added protection from lawsuits to people who assert their religious beliefs in refusing service to gays.

Opponents called it an open attack on gays that invited discrimination.

The bill thrust Arizona into the national spotlight last week after both chambers of the Legislature approved it.

The state faced blistering criticism from major corporations and political leaders from both major parties.

The bill allowed any business, church or person to cite the law as a defence in any action brought by the government or individual claiming discrimination. Supporters call the bill a slight tweak to the state's existing religious freedom law. Arizona does not extend civil-rights protections to people based on sexual orientation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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photo credit: Ray Wong (left),
CPAWS
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative

Ukraine's protest leaders pick top lawmaker for PM

Coffers to fill. The new leader will be walking into a country rife with financial problems

Leaders of Ukraine's protest movement on Wednesday proposed a top legislator as the country's next prime minister, while Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered major military exercises just across the border in a show of force and apparent displeasure over the country's new direction.

The new government, which is expected to be formally approved by parliament Thursday, will face the hugely complicated task of restoring stability in a country that is deeply divided politically and on the verge of financial collapse. The country's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovych, fled the capital over the weekend.

At Kyiv's Independence Square, the heart of the protest movement against Yanukovych, the interim leaders who seized control after he fled proposed Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the country's new prime minister.

Yatsenyuk, 39, is a millionaire former banker who served as economy minister, foreign minister and parliamentary speaker before Yanukovych took office in 2010. Widely viewed as a technocratic reformer, he appears to enjoy the support of the U.S.

The top U.S. diplomat for Europe, Victoria Nuland, was overheard discussing Yatsenyuk and other Ukrainian opposition figures in a bugged phone call that was leaked, saying "I think Yats is the guy who's got the economic experience, the governing experience."

If confirmed, one of the first jobs for Yatsenyuk and other members of his new Cabinet will be seeking outside financial help from the European Union and the International Monetary Fund. Economists say Ukraine is close to financial collapse, with its currency under pressure and its treasury almost empty. The acting finance minister has said Ukraine will need $35 billion in bailout loans to get through the next two years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians pray over recovered body

Palestinians pray during the funeral of Sami Bsharat, a Palestinian militant who was killed in operation by the Israeli army in 2003, in Tamoun village near Jenin city in the West Bank on Wednesday. Recently Israel has been returning the bodies of dead Palestinian militants to their families for burial.

NASSER ISHTAYEH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ethan Baron teaches students Andrea Anthony and Jenny Peng about drone use in journalism. METRO

J-school uses drones for news

Vancouver college. One future support for news gathering is being tested in a journalism school

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's Superman! …Wait, no, it's an air drone, and it could be the future of news gathering.

Langara College's journalism instructor Ethan Baron is pushing his students ahead of the game, teaching them to use a drone equipped with an HD-camera capable of being handled with a smartphone.

It's the kind of device that could boost the concrete facts and information journalists yearn for, and it has all sorts of practical applications, said Baron in Vancouver Wednesday.

"You can have a fire, or a demonstration, or a riot, and that would allow you to see the scale of the event you're covering," he said. "Of course you would have reporters, photojournalists and video journalists on the ground covering whatever action is taking place, then you'd have an overview, which is almost impossible to get at most news outlets these days because most can't afford what it takes to get that perspective."

SAM SMITH/
FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

Phantom 2 Vision

"If you have one of these, then they can capture so much more footage."

Said Amy Jones, a Langara College journalism student

Benedict XVI

Former Pope pressured to leave: Journalist

Retired pope Benedict has denied speculation that his resignation was not valid. Benedict wrote to the La Stampa newspaper amid a new round of speculation. Italian journalist Antonio Socci suggested in the daily Libero that the resignation may have been invalid, claiming Benedict was pressured by cardinals to leave. "Speculation about its invalidity is simply absurd," La Stampa quoted Benedict.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pursuit. Confused Japanese tourists trigger police chase; ends well

The first night in the United States for a family of Japanese tourists ended with the parents being pulled from their rental car at gunpoint with their young son watching after their confusion about American traffic laws set off a high-speed pursuit in southern Utah.

The pursuit began at 1 a.m. Saturday on Interstate 15 near the Utah-Arizona border when the couple's car was spotted going just 37 m.p.h. and swerving between lanes, said Lt. Brad Horne, Utah Highway Patrol's DUI unit commander.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From pursuit to help

Realizing they were dealing with language and cultural barriers, and not drunken fugitives, officers changed their strategy.

- They located a cop who spoke Japanese to help. No charges were laid.

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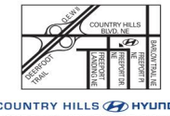

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Cracks mark the section of the frescoed ceilings depicting queen Cassiopeia and king Cepheus of Ethiopia in the Carracci Gallery of the Farnese Palace in Rome. DOMENICO STINELLIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facelift in the works for Renaissance frescoes

Rome. The World Monuments Fund Europe will allocate some $1.2 million for the restoration of 16th century artwork

Some of the most splendid frescoes in one of Rome's most stunning Renaissance palazzi are getting a much needed facelift.

The Carracci Gallery, a salon whose ceiling was frescoed with sensual nudes and playful cherubs to celebrate the wedding of a pope's niece, will be closed to tourists in the Farnese Palace until late spring 2015.

The palace is home to the French Embassy, which said Wednesday patronage of the World Monuments Fund Europe will help cover the €800,000 ($1.2 million) restoration of the 400-year-old frescoes.

Besides cleaning the paintings, restoration beginning mid-March involves repairing cracks and water infiltration damage.

With France facing European Union pressure to control public finances, Deputy Ambassador Erkki Maillard promised the restoration will be at zero cost to French taxpayers.

The palazzo's facade features details by Michelangelo. To admire the embassy's splendid interior tourists must make reservations for small weekly tours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"So many tourists knock on our door and say, 'Can we come in and look?' "

Deputy Ambassador of France in Rome, Erkki Maillard

Chile. Toxins from algae likely poisoned whales millions of years ago

Scientists investigating a graveyard of marine mammal fossils near Chile's northern coast say toxins generated by algae blooms most likely poisoned the animals millions of years ago.

The study by a team of Chilean and Smithsonian Institution scientists was published Wednesday in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

The experts travelled to Chile's Atacama region in 2011 to unearth one of the world's best-preserved graveyards of prehistoric whales.

Other unusual creatures found at the "Whale Hill" site include an extinct aquatic sloth and a walrus-like toothed whale. Scientists say the "orientation and condition" of the skeletons show that the animals "died at sea, prior to burial on a tidal flat." The remains were first found by highway construction workers in 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A prehistoric whale fossil lies in the Atacama desert near Copiapo, Chile. MUSEO PALEONTOLOGICO DE CALDERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Naughty by nature

Behaviourists say dogs lack shame

The next time you start shaking your finger and shouting "Shame on you!" because your dog chewed up your favourite slippers, just remember that no matter how guilty your dog looks, it doesn't know what your rant is about. Behaviourists insist dogs lack shame. The guilty look is a reaction to the tantrum you are throwing now over the damage they did hours earlier. Scientific findings haven't put a dent in the popularity of online dog shaming sites like dogshaming.com and shameyourpet.com. In photos, dogs wear humorous written "confessions." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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$7M. A penny forgotten is a penny made for the feds

When it comes to balancing the country's books, it's the equivalent of finding loose change under a couch cushion.

But each penny surely counts for a Conservative government desperate to press every bit of cash into paying down the deficit.

Federal coffers got a $7-million top-up over the last eight years, all without a single tax being raised or any spending being cut.

So what's behind this modest windfall? Long-forgotten bank accounts. If a bank balance goes untouched for 10 years and no one can find the account owner, the money is transferred to the Bank of Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Penny pinching: Feds get big boost from forgotten bank accounts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big movement. Building home sweet (tiny) homes

While tiny houses have been attractive for those wanting to downsize or simplify their lives for financial or environmental reasons, there's another population benefiting from the small-dwelling movement: the homeless.

There's a growing effort across the nation from advocates and religious groups to build these compact buildings because they are cheaper than a traditional large-scale shelter, help the recipients socially because they are built in communal settings and are environmentally friendly due to their size. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Betty Ybarra stands outside a tiny house she and her boyfriend live in, in Madison, Wis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 89.86¢ (-0.34¢)

TSX 14,188.58 (-0.40)

OIL $102.59 US (+$0.76)

GOLD $1,328 US (-$14.70)

Natural gas: $4.53 US (-$0.13)
Dow Jones: 16,198.41 (+ 18.75)

Expected more?

Target Canada loses almost $1B since March open

Canada's lukewarm reception last year to Target's first expansion outside the U.S. contributed to a nearly $1 billion loss for the discount retailer. Target Corp. reported Wednesday its Canadian segment had a $329 million US loss before interest and tax items in the fourth quarter ended Feb. 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heads bowed, hands out: A devastated Ukraine seeks bailout

A woman walks past a local bank set on fire in Kyiv's Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest in Ukraine, Tuesday. Ukraine needs money, and fast — in weeks, not months. But bailing out the country of 46 million people will not be as easy as simply writing a big cheque. For one, Ukraine has already burned the main international financial rescuer, the International Monetary Fund, by failing to keep to the terms of earlier bailouts from 2008 and 2010. Now it needs help again, and its economic and financial problems are worse than before. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scary tales from Alberta's oilsands

Keystone. U.S. senators trot out anecdotal stories in bid to get Obama to reject contentious pipeline

Horror stories about the Alberta oilsands' impact on human health are being shared in Washington, D.C.

A pair of anti-Keystone XL senators invited witnesses Wednesday to provide anecdotes about the effect on people near sites where the oil is extracted, transported and refined.

They hope these human-interest stories might influence the Obama administration as it prepares its final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

One of the speakers at the event was John O'Connor, an Alberta doctor.

He first went public in 2006 with concerns about what he considered to be elevated cancer rates around Fort Chipewyan, Alta.

Many of the 1,200 residents believe their proximity to oilsands development and major forestry mills in Fort McMurray have led to contamination of water and wildlife and a higher rate of cancer and other illnesses.

The event organizer said she would send a letter to her longtime colleague in the Senate Democratic caucus, current Secretary of State John Kerry, asking him to consider human health as he prepares a recommendation to U.S. President Barack Obama.

"I have shown you, or at least I have told you, how health miseries follow the tar sands," said Barbara Boxer, the chair of the Senate environment committee, at a news conference.

Boxer said the health aspect has been overlooked in the discussion and was disappointingly absent in the State Department's recent environmental report, which predicted no significant effect on carbon pollution whether or not the pipeline is built. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anti-Keystone XL senator

"Health miseries follow tar sands from extraction, to transport, to refining, to waste disposal."

Barbara Boxer, chair of the Senate environment committee

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HOW TO SCORE A DATE

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

There was a time when online dating was an embarrassing ordeal, but now it's so commonplace that you'd be an idiot not to have an online profile.

Sure, you might have a loving spouse and a beautiful child, but you haven't truly lived until you've experienced the thrill of a suitor who eyes your 1,500-word profile, feels a moment of inspiration and writes, "Hey."

I spent so many years on dating sites that it might be the Stockholm Syndrome talking, but I really came to enjoy the myriad of ways people misspelled even the simplest English words. "Beautyfull girl with nothing too loose lokking for someone spatial!"

With enough hours online to merit a Malcolm Gladwell reference, a friend of mine recently asked me to offer advice about her profile. I was honoured. In reply, I've written this can't-miss list of online dating tips that will have her — and your — inbox filled with so many yo's and sup's that the NSA won't have the resources to keep up.

Love Bytes: A Guide To 'Electronic Dating'

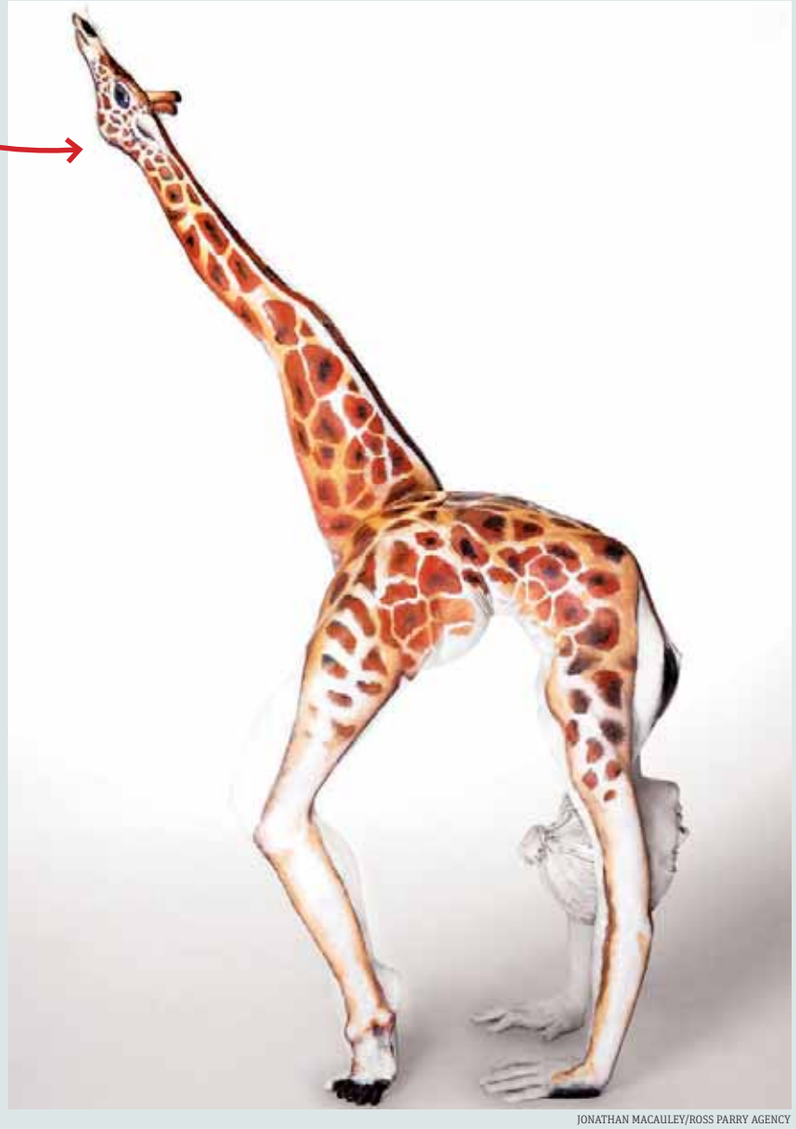
- Your profile name, or handle, should include your full name and address to speed things along.
- Next comes the tagline. Reel in potential suitors with so-called "clickbait" headlines, like "You Won't Believe What Happened To The Last Guy I Dated."
- Never lie, unless you're older or heavier than you want to say you are, in which case go to town.
- Ask a compelling question to prompt more meaningful messages. "If God loves us why must people suffer?" and "Are gravitons fundamental in string theory?" are both great conversation starters.
- Be specific. Wrong: I'm quirky and fun. Right: I am the mayor of Toronto.
- Be sure to list all the things you DON'T want, especially freaks, flakes and game-players, in angry detail. Ranting about previous partners with absolutely no prompting lets people know you mean business. It's no different than when you apply for a new job and your cover letter says, "I'm a good worker, so you'd better not be a lame company or I walk."
- Be sure to pepper the profile with LOLs. Besides their inherent aura of intelligence and charm, the mental image of you laughing at each sentence you write as you sit alone with your laptop is irresistible.
- Taking a selfie in your bathroom mirror shows off your body and your bathroom, which is an efficient way to convey two important pieces of information.
- Big group shots with friends are great, because it shows there is a Plan B, C and D.

And that's my advice. I hope you found it helpful. One last word if you're an older person who is still afraid of technology: Learn to embrace computers and smartphones for your dating needs. Otherwise, you'll be dating yourself.

ZOOM

Artist bends body into an animal

At first glance it looks like a giraffe, but a closer inspection reveals the body of a gymnast contorting herself into the shape of the exotic animal. Beth Sykes, 20, from Featherstone, Yorkshire, in north England, says it was a "spur of the moment" decision to transform her body into that of the long-necked creature. **METRO**



JONATHAN MACAULEY/ROSS PARRY AGENCY

The gymnast

"We just thought one day that it would be cool to paint me as a giraffe. Then finally we had some time and decided to do it. It took six hours of painting but it was worth it."

Contortionist Beth Sykes
Sykes teamed up with her friend and body art painter Emma Fay to produce her giraffe-like look.

All paint, apart from the ears

Fay the artist painted the head of the giraffe on one of Sykes' feet, and hooves on the other foot and one hand.

"The only bit that wasn't my body was the giraffe's ears — we made them out of a foam yoga mat," added Sykes.

METRO

Clickbait

DYLAN ROBERTSON
Metro Online

Worried about how loud sounds affect your health? Perhaps you're curious how noisy your neighbours really are. Your smartphone can be used as a decibel meter thanks to these free apps.

CONTRIBUTED

Decibel 10th:
This app includes a graph similar to a heart-rate monitor. It also tells you what your current sound environment is comparable to, like a hushed conversation or a plane taking off. A similar Android app is Sound Meter.

Decibels:
A camera comes with this app, allowing you to capture a photo along with the volume level at the time.

Decibel Ultra:
The two meters in this app measure both ambient sound and incoming noises. A number of sophisticated features allow you to calibrate the app's precision.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Zuckerberg wants to give the whole world free Internet access hoping they will invest. Is it a good idea?

@auditorydamage: I'm sure this totally won't end up concentrating even more power in FB, which totally won't be abused at all.

@Canucklehead_ca: Good idea? No. GREATEST IDEA! If you're unable to look at cat pictures & argue with strangers, well ... that ain't living.

@ctmwyn: reducing the technology barrier can't be bad, unless users are forced to sell their personal information before given access.

@cableknitdragon: No because the last thing the internet needs is more facebook.

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School of Rock: Wanna study Dylan?

Evening course. James Istvanffy, who previously taught classes about The Beatles, has switched his attention to the famous poet and songwriter

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

James Istvanffy will discuss Bob Dylan's songwriting and influence on popular music and culture during his 12-week course on the folk-rock legend, offered by Mount Royal University. LISA WILTON

James Istvanffy has been teaching university level world history for the past 25 years. But his real passion is rock 'n' roll history.

Since 2009, Istvanffy has been sharing his love of music through popular courses on The Beatles, John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Now, he's shifting his focus from mop-topped Brits to one of the greatest American poets and songwriters of all time, Bob Dylan, in a new non-credited evening course at Mount Royal University.

"I don't think there's been a Bob Dylan course in Calgary, ever," says the 50-year-old instructor, who became a fan after hearing Dylan's 1965 album Highway 61 Revisited when he was a teenager.

"I think it can be a very interesting course because the curio is so great. Dylan's arguably the most influential poet of the 20th century. As a songwriter, he came by at a very important time.

"That's one of the things I'm going through in the course, why was he so important? We're going to look at his music, the stories he told in his songs. We analyze songs, but put them in context. I'm not teaching people to be songwriters or musicians."

Istvanffy says he enjoys teaching classic rock history classes because those who register for the courses are truly interested in the subject matter.

While many of his students are middle-aged men, he's also seen teenagers in his classes, and says the Bob Dylan course is for anyone interested in delving further into the legend's life and lyrics.

"What sets Bob Dylan apart is his ability to communicate with words," says Istvanffy.

"His wordsmithing is so fantastic, it takes you to different places in your mind and heart that you wouldn't go otherwise.

"That's what makes Bob Dylan so uniquely great. He can evoke passions, a love for justice or the revulsion of injustice. That's where he really, really shines as a songwriter and a poet."

Details

- **When and where.** Freewheelin' – Bob Dylan in the '60s starts March 5 through May 28 at Mount Royal University's Conservatory.
- **Cost.** Classes run from 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. and the cost is $325.
- **More information.** To register, go to mtroyal.ca, e-mail conservatory@mtroyal.ca or call 403-440-6821.

Is Annie Clark afraid of the dark?

Annie Clark spends a lot of time acting against herself in the aptly named film Solo. CONTRIBUTED

Solo. Toronto actress takes her first leading role in a freaky twist on the summer camp horror genre

ADAM NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

"I'm a city girl," says Annie Clark, and she plays one in Solo, a low-budget but high-efficiency Canadian horror movie about a young woman stranded on an island somewhere in the wilds of Ontario.

Clark's character, a troubled teenager named Gillian, is reluctantly taking part in an initiation exercise where new camp counselors have to spend two nights roughing it in the wilderness; as the film goes on, it becomes increasingly clear that she's far from alone. "I was actually going to become a camp counselor," says the 21-year-old Toronto native.

"But when I got to the point where I really had to do a solo, I was terrified. I quit camp before I had to do it, but (with this movie) I had to sort of do it anyway."

As its title suggests, Solo is a pretty focused showcase for its leading lady, who spends a lot of her screen time acting in a vacuum. To say more about the other characters would be a spoiler, but there aren't very many of them.

"When I first started reading it, I thought Gillian was going to die in the first few minutes," laughs Clark, who is branching into feature film work after a stint on Degrassi: The Next Generation.

"I didn't know what kind of horror movie it was going be. I'd read plenty of head-cheerleader parts with shower murder scenes, and I don't really like that."

Clark is still a relative newcomer, but she's already familiar enough with the business to know that it's important for a young actress to make discerning choices when it comes to roles.

"I want to do things I feel strongly about rather than just taking what I can get." She says that she's tried to keep from getting pigeonholed after Degrassi, but also that the show was a great initiation into the industry.

Quoted

"I did my own stunts. I had bruises all over the place, but I was proud of them."
Annie Clark

"It opened up a lot doors for me. It was like four years of non-stop learning. I feel like I could have gotten a degree from that: a degree in Degrassi."

Solo is a small movie, but with its stripped-down premise and skillfully engineered scares, it's the sort of indie that's bound to travel: Clark says a friend in Costa Rica sent her a photo of a bootlegged DVD.

And despite her earlier aversion to intense camping experiences, she says that shooting the movie in Muskoka was a down-and-dirty blast.

"I did my own stunts," she reports of the shoot, which also required the crew to improvise bathing routines in the absence of showers on the off-the-grid campsite. "I had bruises all over the place, but I was proud of them."

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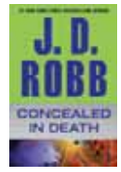

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This Week		Weeks on List
3.	THE INVENTION OF WINGS Sue Monk Kidd	8
4.	DEADLINE Sandra Brown	5
5.	THE DEMONOLOGIST Andrew Pyper	7
6.	LIFE AFTER LIFE Kate Atkinson	8
7.	MY JOURNEY Olivia Chow	6
8.	PRIVATE L.A. James Patterson	3
9.	THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES Alan Bradley	7
10.	THE TRIPLE PACKAGE Amy Chua	4
★ 11.	THE MUSEUM OF EXTRAORDINARY THINGS Alice Hoffman	1
12.	THE AWESOME GUIDE TO LIFE Jason Ellis	2
13.	CONFESSIONS OF A WILD CHILD Jackie Collins	4
14.	ALL JOY AND NO FUN Jennifer Senior	5
15.	THE MOMSHIFT Reva Seth	3
16.	THE POUND A DAY DIET Rocco Dispirito	8
17.	THE START HERE DIET Tosca Reno	8
★ 18.	THE FUTURE OF THE MIND Michio Kaku	1
★ 19.	THE CHASE Janet Evanovich	1
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Beck's new album not just a Morning Phase

Redemption. Record infused with hard-won light Beck found amid darkness of recovery from spinal injury

Beck Hansen really doesn't believe a musician has the right to complain. It's something of an occupational requirement.

"Nobody wants to hear it," he says. "That's not what we're here for. We're here to play music and have a good time."

So it may come as a surprise to many fans that Hansen suffered a spinal injury that kept him from making music in the usual ways for a significant portion of the last decade. He doesn't talk about it a lot and certainly doesn't want to dwell. He found other ways to create as a producer and songwriter during this period, but he will admit he feels a great sense of release now that he's putting out Morning Phase, just the second album he's completed and released in the last 10 years.

"I was just waiting until I felt like I was able to do what I used to do," the 43-year-old Hansen said. "It was a difficult experience, but in any kind of difficulty there are positives. And I think that's particularly what the record is about: How to come out of some sort of travail and difficulty and find some sense of light again and life continuing. Once you've seen some things that are darker and you know that darkness is there, how do you embrace the other side of life?"

Beck's embracing it with a period of great creativity and will soon return to the studio to record a second album he plans to release later this year. At times while injured he was unable to hold conventional instruments, turning to substitutes, like a hand-held keyboard to write and record. He's returned to live performance over the last few years and feels he's been transformed by the experience in ways he struggles to explain, as much metaphysical as physical.

"There's a point where a kind of pessimistic view can take hold and be a means of survival," Hansen said. "This record in some sense was grappling with that and taking a long hard look at everything and trying to find something redemptive."

He's been left with a newfound sense of patience, he says, and the simple act of putting out an album brings him great joy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What the record is about

"Once you've seen some things that are darker ... how do you embrace the other side of life?" Beck

Re-forming old band for right musical fit

- Morning Phase really began in 2008 when Beck came to Nashville to record country-flavoured songs that he ended up shelving because he didn't feel the tone was correct at the time. He experienced a delay in his plans for a return to the studio, so he reformed the band he leaned on during his most creative period and attacked those Nashville songs from a different angle.
- The result sounds very much in mood and colour like Sea Change, the album that revealed Beck's ability to filter deep emotion after playing the sly trickster for much of his early career.
- "Even if I don't see them for a number of years, when we get together it's the same," Hansen said of the band, which includes guitarist Smokey Hormel and drummer Joey Waronker. There's part of us that's worn and grown to fit together, you know, it's part of how we play music. So it was really interesting putting that puzzle back together, how well it fit."

Beck KATY WINN/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Odd movies out rise to Oscar bait

Hollywood irony.
It's not blockbusters but film rarities vying for Tinseltown gold

This year's Academy Awards nominees reflect a Hollywood truism: The margin between the dust bin and the Oscar red carpet is often razor thin.

The development process of any film can be lengthy and arduous, full of challenges in obtaining financing or a studio executive's stamp of approval. The biggest obstacle on the road to the Academy Awards is, for many films, simply getting a green light.

That's especially true nowadays, when studios have pulled back on their output and turned their focus almost exclusively to blockbusters. It makes for an annual Oscar irony: When Hollywood gathers to celebrate itself at the Academy Awards, it fetes not its standard business, but its oddities, its rarities, its freaks that somehow managed to squeeze through the cracks.

The Wolf of Wall Street, for example, might seem like a no-brainer: Martin Scorsese, Leonardo DiCaprio, loads of sex and drugs. But even The Wolf, nominated for five Oscars including best picture, came very close to never getting made. After developing the film, Warner Bros. dropped it in 2008. Scorsese would later lament having "wasted about five months of my life" waiting for the Warner Bros.' OK that never came.

It wasn't until years later (and after other directors were considered) that the project came together, with independent film company Red Granite Pictures financing the film's $100 million budget, and Paramount Pictures distributing.

The bet paid off not only in accolades, but at the box office. The Wolf of Wall Street has made more than $335 million worldwide.

The case of Dallas Buyers Club (six nominations, including best picture) is even more remarkable. A film that's now counted among the nine best of the year by the Academy took nearly two decades to get made. Co-producer and co-screenwriter Craig Borten first sold the script in 1996 after meeting and interviewing Ron Woodroof, a Texan who combated AIDS with drugs smuggled from other countries.

At one time, Woody Harrelson was attached to star with Dennis Hopper directing. Later, after the script was sold to Universal Pictures, Brad Pitt was lined up to play Woodroof, with Marc Forster directing. Another iteration brought in Ryan Gosling and director Craig Gillespie.

It was only revived with Matthew McConaughey (the best actor front-runner) and director Jean-Marc Vallée after the rights to the screenplay went dormant and Borten and co-producer Melisa Wallack were able to buy them back. And still, just weeks before filming began, investors pulled their money. The breach was filled partly because McConaughey gave it an air of inevitability. He had already begun losing weight for the role and discussed it on TV talk shows.

Made for just $5 million and shot in 25 days, Dallas Buyers Club finally got made, long after AIDS dwindled from the headlines. Specialty division Focus Features acquired the film, which has made $30.5 million worldwide.

Several of the nominees have relied on a single person to change their fate. When 12 Years a Slave director Steve McQueen accepted the Golden Globe award for best drama, he thanked producer Brad Pitt: "Without you, this film would have never got made."

Similar kudos have gone to the young producer Megan Ellison, whose Annapurna Pictures bankrolled two best-picture nominees: David O. Russell's American Hustle (jointly with Sony Pictures) and Spike Jonze's Her (released by Warner Bros.). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angling for the big one

- "The eight, 10, 12 good English-language films are all released in the last quarter of the year and expected to gird for battle for Oscars and Golden Globes and all that stuff," says Payne.
- "And they're just movies. They may be fragile movies, human movies. They just need to find an audience on their own without having comparative judgment made along with it."

Nearly 20 years in the making: Dallas Buyers Club got made even after investors pulled out thanks in part to Matt McConaughey's air of inevitability.
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5 Big Brother house guests

If you thought contestants on the first season of Big Brother Canada brought the drama, get ready for drama on crack in Season 2. We asked five of them to reveal what Canadians can expect when the show premieres March 5 at 9 p.m. ET on Slice.

MAE BOWRING
for Metro Canada

Neda Kalantar, 22, Vancouver

Which past contestants are you most like?
Peter (Brown) in the way he played the game. It didn't work out for him in the end because he made a few mistakes, but I like the fact that he made a really strong alliance with Alec (Beall). I also like how Gary (Levy) had fun in the game. He didn't take anything too seriously.

Are you worried about what your parents may see and think?
I don't think so. I'm really close with my mom and she knows pretty much everything about me so I'm not too scared of that. She'll just shake her head at me. Hopefully I'm not going to do anything too embarrassing.

What will you do with the money if you win?
I would love to pay off my debts and my mom's debt. It would be awesome to have a down payment for a house.

Arlie Shaban, 25, Stouffville, Ont.

What's your strategy?
All of the past players say you can't plan too far ahead. I'm going to go in there and be the guy that everyone likes. I'm going to be funny, tell some stories, cook some great meals and do the cleaning. I want people to want to keep me around.

I can tell you're confident about your chances
Strategically, I'll be running the show. I think I'll get everyone to do exactly what I want them to do in a way that they don't know that I'm the one in charge.

Anick Gervais, 28, Sudbury, Ont.

What did you do before Big Brother Canada?
I'm a business development specialist. It's a fancy word for sales person for a mining company.

Any other hobbies?
I'm a Reiki master so I work with energies. I'm also studying reflexology, so I give a mean foot massage.

So you'll use that to your advantage?
If somebody's stressed out and HOH (head of household) then I'll be like, 'Hey I'll give you a session if you don't nominate me (for eviction)'. I'll also use my bartering skills.

Kyle Shore, 24, Porters Lake, Nova Scotia

How did you react when you found out you were selected?
For once in my life I was speechless. It's like if you're with a girl and her dad walks in and you just freeze like a deer in headlights. That was the feeling.

What's the one word you'd use to describe yourself.
Outgoing, because I love to party. I have to be social and in the scene. I'll try anything once.

What do you do back home?
Personal trainer. I'm waiting to get into either policing or the military. I can't be a desk jockey. I've got to keep moving.

You're outspoken. Are you worried about offending people?
I've done university speeches where I've had to watch my slang and s— like that.

Rachelle Diamond, 20, Edmonton

What were you doing before the show?
I'm in my third year of psychology at the University of Alberta. I hope to get my PhD and become a marriage and family counsellor.

Use one word to describe yourself.
Loud. I tend to get loud when in a group because I'm trying to get my point across. I'm expressive and always say what's on my mind.

What character trait might get you into trouble on the show?
I'm not very good at listening to people. I interrupt people, but I don't mean to. That could be an issue because it's important for people to feel heard.

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Mayim Bialik still boosting breastfeeding

Mayim Bialik may be done nursing her two sons, but she's still more than happy to defend the practice of breastfeeding in public. "I think anywhere you give a bottle, you breastfeed. I would try and be absolutely respectful and conscious of the community I was in, but I don't believe you need to cover up a baby eating anymore than you need to cover up a baby drinking a bottle," the Big Bang Theory star tells the Huffington Post.

Mayim Bialik

Katy Perry and John Mayer ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

They're in, then they're out

So much for the engagement rumours. Katy Perry and John Mayer have reportedly split up once again, according to Radar Online. The couple's second go at romance — after an earlier breakup — seemed to be going well, with each being very forthcoming in interviews about their feelings for each other. They even duetted on Mayer's "Who You Love," and Perry was spotted recently with a diamond on her finger than many thought signalled impending marriage. But it was reportedly Perry herself who initiated the split.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lawrence looks at year-long vacation

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

Have we loved Jennifer Lawrence so hard that we broke her?

Despite — or because of — our affection, the world's most adored actress is planning to take a lengthy hiatus from acting, according to Harvey Weinstein. "She's going to have a long break for a year where she won't do anything. It's been non-stop for her and she deserves a rest," Weinstein, who produced Silver Linings Playbook, told the U.K.'s The Sun.

Why does Jennifer need a rest from being a movie star? Apparently, carrying two major movie franchises while also starring in a steady stream of Oscar bait (not to mention being relentlessly charming in interviews) can wear on a person. "Jennifer is too nice and will do people favours and agrees to do a movie like American Hustle when she could have had a rest," Weinstein said. "She signed on to do Hunger Games when she was young and wouldn't have realized how much it would dominate her life. But she's a professional and always will be."

Well, OK. I guess she can take a break, as long as she comes back — and assigns a substitute to make fun of Sarah Jessica Parker's hats in her stead.

Twitter

@ElizabethHurley
Just joined a gym for the first time in 20 years. About to have a fitness assessment. Gulp.

@SarahKSilverman
My morals aren't the same as your morals

@AlbertBrooks
I hope Netflix never opens a restaurant

Robin Thicke

Robin in Thicke trouble with his fans

Robin Thicke may be breaking up with his fans along with wife Paula Patton. The Blurred Lines singer cancelled yet another show on his U.S. tour earlier this week, the third consecutive show to be scrapped. "Due to unforeseen circumstances, Robin Thicke will postpone his performance at Harrah's Cherokee," the North Carolina casino announced on its website. "This concert will be rescheduled and the new date announced as soon as possible." Thicke also bowed out of shows last week in Atlanta and Orlando, citing vocal problems. "I never want to let down my fans, but I have unfortunately lost my voice and cannot perform," said Thicke, who announced on Monday that he and Patton are separating. If this keeps up, the Boston University students who started a petition to cancel Thicke's March 4 concert there — on complaints of his "misogynist music" — might not have anything to worry about.

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LIFE 3

Kloss is now in session: We want those moves like Karlie

She walks the walk...
And talks runway season, that trademark stride and her inner hopeless romantic

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Karlie Kloss rapidly became a runway mainstay after being discovered in 2005 at age 13. HANDOUT

Karlie Kloss is one of those rarefied models that women obsess over and men lust after. Now her stock is so high rumour has it the American-born model can only be booked for shows through special arrangement.

You've got the most confident walk in the business. Do you find being on the runway empowering?

I do. I really enjoy being on the runway. It's a very different part of my job compared to photo shoots. It's a performance similar to the ballet performances that I remember from growing up, so I enjoy runway shows because of that.

How did ballet prepare you for the modeling industry?

Ballet was the best training I could have had for a modeling career. It teaches movement, gracefulness and how to express emotion. Telling a story through movement is very important in a modeling career.

Valentine's Day has recently come and gone. Did you buy into it or are you a cynic?

Well I do like Valentine's Day. I like any excuse to show some warmth and love. I think that goes for not just your boyfriend or girlfriend but it's also an excuse to write a love note to your friends, your mom, anyone.

Karlie's career is on pointe

"Ballet was the best training I could have had for a modeling career."
Karlie Kloss

Are you a romantic?

I am. I am a romantic. Yeah, it's also a good holiday for good chocolate.

What's the cheesiest chat-up line you've received?

Hmm, cheesiest chat-up line: "Did it hurt? Did it hurt, angel, when you fell from heaven?" It's an automatic game over.

You're photographed in lingerie a great deal — a look that men's magazines like to perpetuate as real-life. Is this the case?

No, I'm into sweatpants and my boyfriend's T-shirt. I like to be totally boring and watch [American] football, there's no fancy lingerie. But on a special occasion it's always fun to get dressed up and that's why there's some good stuff here at Victoria's Secret.

Good plug.

Flavoured from the inside out

"This is the classic Mediterranean preparation for fish, without all the fancy filleting, searing, steaming, or curing," writes Einat Admony in her book Balaboosta: Bold Mediterranean Recipes to Feed the People You Love.

"The key is to layer the ingredients inside the fish, instead of on top, so that the flavour permeates every last ounce of the meat."

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Pat the skin dry on the branzino with a few paper towels. Stuff the cavity of each fish with one sprig each of thyme and rosemary, one garlic clove, and two slices of lemon. Place the fish on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper and drizzle with olive oil.

3. Roast in the oven until cooked all the way through, about 30 minutes.

4. Meanwhile, make the yogurt dill sauce: Combine the yogurt, garlic, lemon juice, and salt in a blender. Puree until smooth, then very slowly add the olive oil in a thin stream. Scrape the yogurt mixture into a bowl and stir in the chopped dill. The sauce can be made ahead of time and kept in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.

5. Serve each fish with the yogurt dill sauce.

EXCERPTED FROM BALABOOSTA BY EINAT ADMONY (ARTISAN BOOKS). COPYRIGHT (C) 2013.

Ingredients

- Four 1 1/4-lb whole branzino, gutted and cleaned
- 4 fresh thyme sprigs
- 4 fresh rosemary sprigs
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 lemon, sliced into 8 rounds
- Olive oil

Yogurt Dill Sauce

- 3/4 cup non-fat yogurt
- 1 garlic clove, coarsely chopped
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp finely chopped fresh dill

This recipe serves four. QUENTIN BACON

Cookbook of the Week

A mixture of cultures and tastes

As a mother, wife and chef who runs three busy New York City restaurants, Einat Admony knows about being a New Age "balaboosta" (Yiddish for "perfect housewife"). It makes sense then that her cookbook shares the same name. Balaboosta offers 140 recipes that blend Admony's mixed Israeli heritage (Yemenite, Persian) with the Mediterranean palate she developed working in New York City. Among the dishes in the book are: Spicy Chicken Tagine, Fenugreek Fried Bread, Yemenite Oxtail Soup and more. METRO

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Nursery, I got hue, babe

Crib notes. Looking for non-traditional colours for your newborn's room? We've got you covered

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I am expecting a baby and don't ascribe to the traditional colours for decorating a baby's room. I also don't know the sex of my unborn. What are neutral-gendered, on-trend colours for painting and decorating? — Nathalie Hicks, Toronto

More parents are opting for non-traditional baby rooms and decorating the space to please themselves as they spend time with their newborn. Once a child develops a preference for styles and colours, usually by age three, it's a good time to re-decorate to suit their personalities. Happily, many retailers carry colourful nursery decor that falls outside traditional schemes.

Here are a few designer tips to get you started:

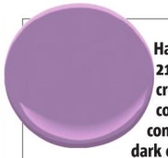
1. Match any wood tones of baby furniture to other wood tones you might already have throughout your home, such as dark espresso or bleached oak.

2. Consider using a grown-up area rug with fabulous colours and patterns instead of the predictable nursery story-printed rugs.

3. Never be afraid of using deep colours for a newborn's room. It's a space where you are training them to sleep, so the less stimulation the better.

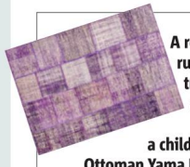
Mix whimsy and colour for those early years. Canadian designed Duc Duc Crib offers a toddler bed conversion kit and a variety of fun words to apply. $1,634, modernkaribou.ca

A quirky orange kangaroo plush cushion becomes an instant best friend for baby. Its pocket makes a great spot for an extra soother. Machine washable. $10, simons.ca



Hazy Lilac 2116-40 paint creates a cozy room to complement dark or light wood tones and trendy shades of grey and orange. benjaminmoore.ca

Keep storage long and low so toys can be displayed at a comfy height, leaving room for shelves and hooks above. Bjursta Sideboard, $300, ikea.ca



A recycled rug is on trend and a perfect choice for a child's room. Ottoman Yama Patchwork 6x8, $475, ecarpetgallery.

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NHL

Price in pain after return from Sochi

Montreal Canadiens star goaltender Carey Price left the team's morning skate with what the club is calling a lower-body injury.

Canadiens coach Michel Therrien said Price aggravated the injury while representing Canada at the Sochi Olympics.

"He will not play the next two games and he's day-to-day," Therrien said.

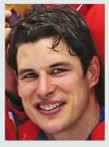
The Canadiens hosted the Detroit Red Wings Wednesday night. Peter Budaj started in goal, and Dustin Tokarski was called up from the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs to serve as backup.

Therrien said that Price will not accompany the team on a trip to Pittsburgh for a game Thursday night and would be re-evaluated on Friday.

He was originally expected to make his return Saturday against the Maple Leafs in Toronto. His status for that game is unclear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sense of accomplishment



"I think everybody feels a sense of pride, but also a sense of relief knowing you were able to do what everybody expected."

Sidney Crosby returned from Sochi, Russia, with his second Olympic gold medal, this one as the captain of the Canadian team. Crosby returns to normalcy in the NHL with the first-place Penguins, who face a stretch run that features 24 games in 46 days.

Out with old Flames, in with the future

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

Mike Cammalleri is one of the names being tossed around ahead of the trade deadline. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

This is the second-best time of year for rebuilding franchises. The first, of course, is the draft, when a high selection becomes a future cornerstone for the organization.

The trade deadline is next best because it's typically the best time for the rebuilding team — take your Calgary Flames, for example — to turn outflow into inflow. Ideally, post-apex unrestricted free agents are sent away to contending teams in return for young prospects and/or draft picks.

More than any season in the past decade, I'm excited about the possibilities for the Flames leading up to the March 5 deadline because of the guy at the control panel. Brian Burke is a proven commodity in the GM's chair.

The men before him didn't do a good enough job. Darryl Sutter was always a reckless buyer forsaking prime draft picks, and got Calgary into this mess to begin with. Jay Feaster failed to forecast the world's most obvious rebuild and chose to dither for two years before selling his best assets at dollar-store prices.

I have confidence Burke will astutely create a seller's environment for Mike Cammalleri. Sure, Cammy's struggling lately, but Burke will time the market to induce the best value for him. You won't see a rush deal for C-list prospects five days before deadline.

The Burkey bluff?

I'm not convinced I believe the ... speculation Burke is talking to Cammalleri about a contract extension. But I'm OK if that's part of the posturing process ...

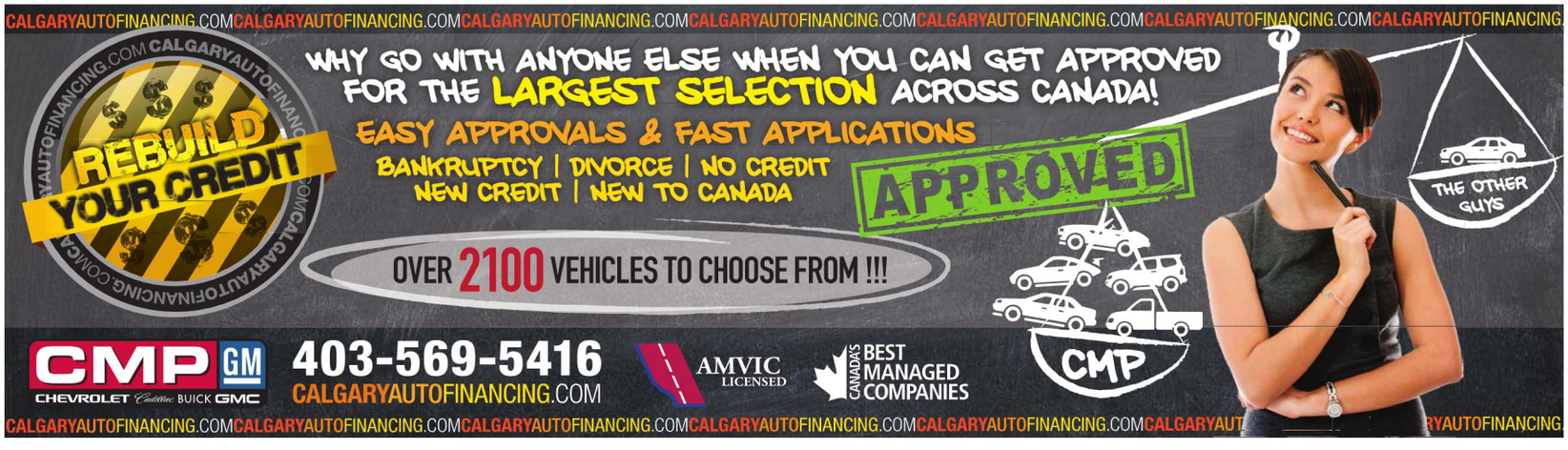
I'm not convinced I believe the recent speculation Burke is talking to Cammalleri about a contract extension. But I'm OK if that's part of the posturing process to get other teams bringing their A offers. Sure, they're talking, and money, no doubt, has come up, but both sides know it's in their best interests to part ways.

Cammalleri has been a good soldier this season, playing a solid two-way game with an upbeat attitude for a bottom-five team. But surely he'd rather be on a contender as his prime playing years wind down. And Burke knows even a second-round pick and middling prospect is better than nothing for a player who goes on the open market in July. But I do have faith Burke can extract a first-round pick or an A-list prospect.

Lee Stempniak and Chris Butler are other pending UFAs probably on their way out. At this point in the game, the mandate is to acquire young assets, be it draft picks or prospects.

And there are few GMs I'd rather have doing that than Brian Burke.

4 SPORTS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Stephen Ames hits a tee shot at the Humana challenge on Jan. 18 in La Quinta, Calif. TODD WARSHAW/GETTY IMAGES

Ames aces his way into golf hall

PGA. Calgary golfer unanimously selected as 74th member of Canada's golf shrine

He's a Hall of Famer now, but Stephen Ames isn't ready to give up playing golf just yet.

Ames was unanimously named for induction into the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame on Wednesday, becoming the 74th member of the country's golf's shrine. And with Ames poised to celebrate his 50th birthday in April, the Calgary resident is planning to play events on both the PGA and Champions Tours in 2014.

Ames' induction ceremony is expected to be in Calgary in August during the Shaw Charity Classic, a Champions Tour event that Ames is a founding patron of.

A dual citizen of Canada and Trinidad and Tobago, Ames has recorded 11 career wins. Four have come on the PGA Tour, where he has earned over $19.5 million US.

Ames' first Tour win came July 4, 2004 at the Cialis Western Open, finishing two strokes ahead of American Steve Lowery. His last victory came in '09 at the Children's Miracle Network Classic in a playoff with Justin Leonard and George McNeill, both of the U.S.

Ames has also won on the European and Nationwide Tours as well as three skins events, including the '05 Telus World Skins Game in Whistler, B.C.

A career milestone came in '06 when Ames captured The Players Championship by six strokes over Retief Goosen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tickled green

"It's a great honour, for sure without a doubt."

Stephen Ames reacts to being honoured

MLB

Bautista homers in first at bat

Jose Bautista hit a long home run off Roberto Hernandez three batters into the game, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-3 Wednesday in rain-shortened spring training opener for both teams.

Bautista's home run landed outside of the ballpark at Bright House Field. The game was called in the middle of the seventh inning.

Cliff Lee will make his first start when the Phillies take on Toronto and R.A. Dickey in a rematch on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Angels reel in Trout, sign him to one-year deal

Mike Trout has his first seven-figure contract. Up ahead is what figures to be a nine-figure deal.

"It feels good," Trout said Wednesday after agreeing to a $1 million, one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels.

The salary is the highest for a one-year major league contract for a player not yet eligible for arbitration who wasn't coming to the big leagues from Japan or Cuba or wasn't required to have a larger amount because of the maximum cut rule.

Trout will become eligible for arbitration after this season and could become a free agent after the 2017 World Series. The sides are thought to be discussing an agreement through 2020 in the $150 million range.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mike Trout GETTY IMAGES

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It won't be long before your mind is back in the groove. You will have a lot to say for yourself today but be very careful that you don't give away secrets to people who may be your rivals.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
According to the planets, you could make serious money but you need to get serious about your ambitions. Most of all, you need to commit yourself to an objective that may take years to reach. Are you ready?

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will be challenged over the next few days, but you will rise to the challenge and come out unscathed. Remember: rivals are more scared of you than you need be of them.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will need to close your ears to criticism today. It does not matter how good a job you do, someone, somewhere, will pick holes in your methods or techniques. Ignore them and carry on as before.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Be careful what you ask for over the next two or three days because you are likely to get it. Why should that be a problem? Because the responsibilities that go with it could take away a lot of the fun.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be more emotional than usual today. But that could actually work in your favour, especially if you have not been too open about your feelings of late. Every now and then it's good to let it all out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do something unexpected. The planets indicate that no matter how far you push the limits, at home or at work, others will forgive you. But that's only today. Tomorrow they won't be so generous.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Keep your eye on the ball and keep your mind on what it is you are hoping to accomplish. If you can do that then you will succeed. The approaching new moon will give you added drive and dynamism.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You don't have to rely on other people. You have high hopes for the future and will make quicker progress if don't have to worry about dragging others along behind you.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
For the past two or three weeks you have found it hard to get your thoughts together, which means progress has been slow. Now, your mind will click into gear and you will soon be sailing along.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You don't take risks often but when you do, you go all the way. With that in mind, you are advised to wait until the weekend to follow up on what you are planning. If you start too early you could lose it all.

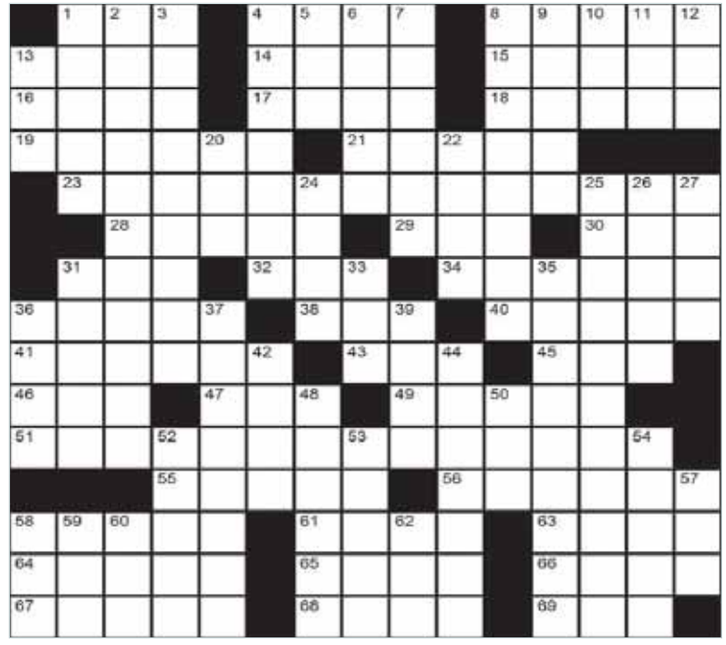
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Be assertive and let partners and colleagues know that you intend to put your needs first. This is your time of year and you have every right and every reason to be a little bit selfish.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

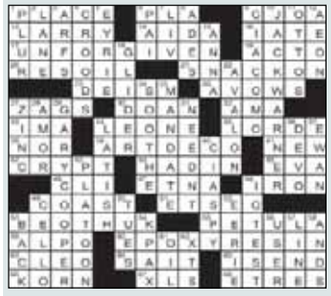
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Possibilities
4. Frost
8. Ancient water nymph
13. Take _ __ (Try the drink)
14. Vogue rival
15. __ boots
16. Saintly symbol
17. Marsh plant
18. Solemn bell sound
19. "You are not!" retort: 3 wds.
21. Farewell, in France
23. Step dancers perform to their music: 2 wds.
28. '70s music
29. Classic game
30. Ms. Long
31. Like
32. Exhaust
34. Fort __ (Where the American Civil War started in 1861)
36. Roman Empire invaders
38. Beige
40. Sans stopping...: 2 wds.
41. Singer Bonnie's surnamesakes
43. Drivers' org.
45. Actor Mr. Knight's
46. Admiral's org. in The States
47. Juice: French
49. 1985 Power Station hit: "Some Like __ __"
51. "The best man in Ottawa...": Lumberjack in the Stompin' Tom Connors song: 3 wds.
55. Flower sort
56. More sore
58. 1998 Edwin McCain song: 2 wds.
61. In __ of flowers
63. Alfonso XIII's queen's namesakes
64. Sitting spot
65. High
66. Prefix with 'dynamic'
67. "All in the Family" role
68. Opportunity
69. Juiceless

Down
1. Oscar-winning songwriter Mr. Hayes
2. Oscars category: 2 wds.
3. It will shine on Ellen DeGeneres as this year's Oscars host
4. Brave acts
5. Corrida call
6. Shake like _ __
7. Social news website
8. Leslie Nielsen movie franchise: 2 wds.
9. Cancel
10. White House nickname
11. __ clear
12. Rocker Mr. Shannon
13. Sushi tuna
20. Periods beyond regular hrs.
22. Some apples
24. Outdoors garment
25. "The __": Piano tune in "The Sting" (1973)
26. 'Nothings' in Nice
27. Chalcedony variety
31. "__ __ _ say, not..."
33. BC's ocean
35. "Ace of Spades" British metal band
36. Food
37. Gospels guy, __. __
39. Newbie
42. Tallow source
44. In the wrong: 2 wds.
48. Silver fishies
50. "__ Ramsey" ('70s TV Western)
52. Frilly neckwear piece like Austin Powers wears
53. "Easy Livin'" by __ Heep
54. Beat
57. Record label The Bee Gees were on
58. 'Expert' suffix
59. 19 TV __. (Production co. for "American Idol")
60. Law: French
62. "Turn to Stone" gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

		7	2		9	3		
	2		3		5		4	
9								8
		8	1	2	6	5		
		9	8	5	7	2		
7								2
	3		6		1		5	
		1	4		2	6		

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	9	1	3	5	6	8	4
1	3	5	8	4	6	2	9	7
4	8	6	2	9	7	3	5	1
8	4	7	3	5	2	1	6	9
3	5	1	9	6	8	7	4	2
6	9	2	4	7	1	8	3	5
9	1	3	7	8	4	5	2	6
2	6	8	5	1	9	4	7	3
5	7	4	6	2	3	9	1	8

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: -5° MIN: -14°	MAX: -20° MIN: -21°	MAX: -23 MIN: -34°

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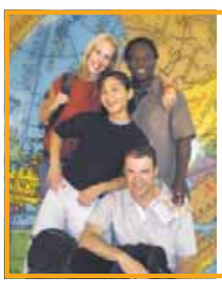
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